

High-performance Economy

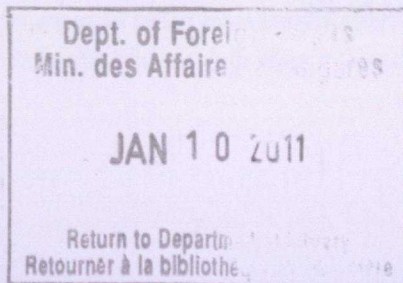
Canada's economy is one of the most resilient in the world, with unparalleled growth prospects.



Canada has a large and growing domestic market, with high-growth sectors of economic activity. Canada's economy is the eleventh-largest in the world (as measured by GDP), rivaling leading destinations of foreign direct investment such as Brazil, India and Russia.

Canada's Strengths

- Canada's real annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for the 2000 – 2009 decade averaged 1.7%, well above growth in the United States., the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy.
- The IMF forecasts Canada's growth rate at 2.6% for 2010 and 3.6% for 2011, well above growth rates in the other G7 countries or other advanced economies.
- Canada has more *Financial Times* Top 500 companies than does Germany, Spain or India.
- Canada has one of the highest credit ratings in the world, higher than the U.S. or the U.K.
- For two years in a row (2008, 2009), the World Economic Forum has named the Canadian banking system the soundest in the world.
- In Canada, the share of non-performing bank loans to total loans stood at 0.9% in 2009—one of the lowest levels in the world and the lowest among its peers in the other G7 countries.
- At a time when numerous financial institutions around the world were collapsing, no Canadian bank or insurer failed. None required bailouts.
- Canada's banks are among the largest in North America. Four Canadian banks are among North America's Top 10.
- As a percentage of GDP, Canada's deficits are far lower than those of the other G7 economies and its public debt as measured by its net-debt-to-GDP ratio is the lowest in the G7.



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